

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiners, Mr. Mercado and Mr. Kalafut for their courtesy and assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application during an interview conducted June 10, 2003. As indicated in the Interview Summary (Paper No. 11), amendments to Claims 10, 21 and 23 were discussed, and at the conclusion of the interview it was agreed that they appear to overcome the prior art of record. In addition, because this application is currently under final rejection, the Examiners indicated that it would be necessary to file a Request for Continued Examination in order to have such an amendment entered.

Concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination has been submitted. Moreover, the amendments to Claims 10, 21 and 23 have been incorporated herein. Accordingly, since the latter claims are the only independent claims of record, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

As requested at the interview, Applicants note that support for the amendment to Claim 10 is found in the specification as originally filed at page 2, lines 29-30; page 7, lines 15-16 and page 8, lines 30-31. Support for the amendments to Claims 21 and 23, on the other hand, is found throughout the entire specification, but including in particular at page 7, line 5 through page 8, line 37. (See page 7, lines 25-29; page 8, lines 9-18, and page 8, lines 32-37.)

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #1748X/49135).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary R. Edwards", is written over a horizontal line.

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